

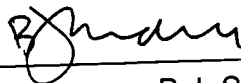
MALLE et al
Divisional of Serial No. 09/380,459

have been considered. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if further copies of these documents are required.

An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP CLAIMS

4. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that reduction is carried out to a depth of about 4 to 5 μm .

5. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that reduction is carried out to generate 0.1% to 5% by weight of
cysteine with respect to the total amino acids of the keratinous hair fibres.

7. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that the disulphide bonds of the keratin are reduced using a reducing
agent selected from thiols, hydrides, sulphites or bisulphites, phosphines and
phosphites, hyperbranched polymers and dendrimers carrying terminal thiol functions.

10. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 10 to 12] claim 10,
characterized in that the phosphine is selected from tris (2-carboxyethyl)phosphine and
tris (hydroxymethyl) phosphine.

11. (Amended) Method according to [any one of Claims 10 to 13] claim 10,
characterized in that the phosphine is present in a concentration in the range 10^{-3} M to 1
M.

12. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that the pH of the reducing agent composition is in the range 3 to 9,

preferably in the range 4 to 7.

13. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the contact time for the aqueous reducing agent solution with the keratinous fibres is in the range from about 30 seconds to 1 hour, the temperature being in the range from room temperature to a temperature of less than 60°C.

14. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the active compound is selected from colorants, sunscreens, shine agents and hydrophobic compounds, said active compound carrying at least one nucleofugic function.

15. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the active compound is used in an aqueous solution at a concentration in the range from about 10⁻³% to 20%, the pH of said solution being in the range from about 2 to 10.

16. (Amended) Method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the contact time for the aqueous solution of active compound is generally in the range from about 1 minute to 1 hour, the temperature being in the range from room temperature to a temperature of less than 60°C.